

## MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 11, 2009 - MINUTES

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**In attendance:** Council Members: Tom Peluso, John Watson, Betsy Garrigues, Stephanie Nelson, Vickie Groeneweg, Sally Miller, Lori Marchak, Kathy Berg, Carolyn Robinson, & Jan Bjork; Advocacy Members: Scott Malloy (MHC), Shelly Heilweil, Dennis Cox (AMDD), Andrea Lower (Court Services), Eric Bryson (City Commissioner), and Diane Conti (Help Center); Guest: John McParlane; and Staff: Glenda Howze.

**Call to Order and Introductions** - 12:02 PM.

**Public Comment** - Ms. Miller stated that she spoke at a NAMI Vet conference. Montana is a model for the screening of vets for mental illness and is being talked about all over the country. Ms. Nelson requested a few minutes to discuss the Mental Health Resource Guide; Mr. Peluso stated he would give her time at the end of the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes** - Mr. Watson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lt. Robinson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Drop-In Center Update** - Mr. Watson reported that 30 peace officers attend the CIT Training from three counties. There was a panel of consumers that assisted in the training. The Center broke another record in April with 411 visits and nineteen new registrations. John and two others are going to Warm Springs for Illness Management Recovery training in addition to other trainings on how to start conversations, etc. that will be useful in the Center.

Mr. Malloy provided more details on the CIT training that occurred the week of April 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a huge success with 23-25 law enforcement personnel, 4 dispatchers, and an admin staff from Bozeman Deaconess Hospital ER. The plan (hope) is to have a training quarterly, but it may realistically be only annually for now and hopefully be held around the state. Lt. Robinson stated that the next one will probably be held in the fall. Ms. Miller stated that the Sheriff's Office was the most represented. This training was years in the making and was accomplished with donations and lots of coordination. Lt. Robinson also explained that the training has been boiler plated so that they can be more effective with time in the future and cut back on the training Sergeant's time spent. Mr. Peluso stated that he is proud of our County. Some of this is being done in other counties but ours is the first 40 hour program. With the assistance of NAMI and CSAA, the cost was only \$30 per participant where in other counties the cost has been up to \$300 a piece. Lt. Robinson stated that there are huge overtime costs for all of the agencies involved. Someone has to cover the shift of the attendees as well. Ms. Miller stated that there have been 2-3 protective custody cases that have been eliminated already due to the training. Mr. Watson stated that after the training he received two phone calls from officers wanting to volunteer at the Drop In Center and one lady called offering to donate money. Ms. Heilweil stated that there is a new policy for officers regarding referring folks to the Help Center. Ms. Conti stated that they are also working to provide follow-up calls with the 211 use with assistance from officers.

**Discussion Regarding 4/28 County Commission Meeting Regarding Funding of Mental Health Campus and Update on Campus Plans** - Ms. Heilweil stated that she was very moved by the presentations at the Commission meeting and stated that it all flowed very well. Lt. Robinson said she was pleasantly surprised by the 3-0 vote; Mr. Peluso agreed. Ms. Howze stated that it was not going to be a 3-0 vote at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Peluso stated that there was only one "dissenter" and County Attorney Lambert made assurances that all would be done in a legal matter to address his concerns. Mr. Peluso reported that the campus plans are proceeding. They have chosen a Construction Manager At Risk (CMR) and the dirt work is

currently being done by Sime Construction. The plans are 75% complete and the CMR will review them now. Rotherham Construction worked on the plans with Bectal Architects. The plans will then be available for the subs to bid on. The bids will be received on the 13<sup>th</sup> and opened on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The ground-breaking is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>; Jaimie Grener with the Hope House is making the plans for the event.

Ms. Heilweil suggested that we need to extend a formal invitation to the Governor. Mr. Peluso suggested that we should also invite Lou Thompson, AMDD and the Director of DPHHS and our local legislators. \*Ms. Howze agreed to draft letters for the review and approval of the LAC. Mr. Malloy stated that he'd like to have a consumer speak at the ground-breaking. Jacob would be ideal but he probably won't be back.

**Report on CSAA Congress** – Mr. Watson stated that the CSAA Congress met and they had 11 positions to fill on the board; only 9 were filled. The CSAA needs a lot of help. The process for appointing board members is unclear. Mr. Peluso was not re-appointed. There were 11 spots to fill, 9 filled with no rules on where those people should come from (geographically). WRAP has been on the agenda for a WRAP facilitator workshop for two years. Both of the people that were needed to be involved were in attendance but when asked about implementation the subject kept being put off. They couldn't say this year or not. "They" is CALM4US and Janus Gusteson. The CSAA Board sits on things too long. \$15,000 was lost because of the delay in progressing on things. They haven't had a good Treasurer in a long time.

Mr. Peluso gave an explanation of WRAP. He also noted that the past Chair of the CSAA was a consumer from Great Falls in recovery. He came on in May. There was an incident in September that affected the whole group and added a lot of stress. The Chair had a hard time dealing with the stress. He is a resilient person and made the decision not to continue in order to best help himself in his recovery. The CSAA hasn't had a financial statement in five months and there is no spending from the fund. AMDD is concerned about making sure the funds are being used properly. There is money available that the CSAA hasn't been spending and it should have been distributed. They withheld the \$15,000 because of the unclear financial status. Mr. Peluso had a conversation with Janus Gusteson about having \$20,000 for a facilitator training. Dan Ladd thought that the CSAA may be able to get that money but they are waiting for an answer from Lou Thompson. They will bring this to the next CSAA meeting for action. Mr. Watson asked if the LAC could write a letter to AMDD encouraging them to approve the money. Ms. Howze will work on drafting this letter.

**Distribution of Final By-laws and Update on Adoption by the County Commission** – The by-laws were approved and distributed as approved by the Commission.

**Legislative Update** – Mr. Peluso reported on Anita Roessman's update. It is still uncertain what the Governor will do with HB 130, 131 and 132. The shift is to community services but they won't replace the State Hospital but put some of the services back at the community level where they are very needed. The Governor sent the bills to the Secretary of State without signing them. He has to approve HB 2 and HB 645 within 10 days of transmittal which will be this Friday in order to be certain that the funding for the mental health bills will be available.

**Mental Health Resource Guide:** Ms. Nelson reported that the Health Department has been collecting input and integrating new information and changes into the document. A draft will be available soon. She requested 1 or 2 people to look at the draft that are familiar with the resources to aid in the revisions. Mr. Peluso, Ms. Garrigues, and Ms. Conti volunteered to serve on this subcommittee. Discussion took place regarding contributions for the printing costs. Ms. Nelson stated that it has been her experience that the Chronicle hasn't been the best advertising location as far as distributing a copy to every purchaser of the paper, but we could do an ad about the availability of the guide.

Agenda for June Meeting: WRAP, letter to AMDD, priorities for future legislative session, NAMI State meeting regarding commitment law

Other: The LAC would like to comment the Sheriff and his department on the fine training that they put on. Mr. Watson made a motion to support the sending of such a letter. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned** at 1:00 PM